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SITUATION LISTING

DATE 04/24/73//114

SITUATION: HAK
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUTGOING

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
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 DE WTE #1147 0761322
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 O 171320Z MAR 73
 FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK004
 TO JON HOWE FOR DR KISSINGER
 ZEM
 UNCLAS WH30747
 TOHAK004
 MARCH 17, 1973
 MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER
 FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
 SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST
 FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE IS THE REPORT FROM PARIS THAT THE
 U.S. HAS MADE A MODEST, NEW COMMITMENT TO HELP CALM DOWN THE
 CURRENCY MARKETS. THE PARIS AGREEMENT, IN THE VIEW OF MONETARY
 EXPERTS, MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA OF INTERNATIONAL MON-
 ETARY RELATIONSHIPS. ALSO FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE IS PRIME
 MINISTER TANAKA'S APPEAL FOR TWO OR THREE MORE YEARS OF AMERICAN
 PATIENCE AND RESTRAINT WHILE SOLUTIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR TRADE AND
 CURRENCY PROBLEMS INVOLVING JAPAN AND THE U.S. TANAKA MADE IT
 CLEAR THAT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE "THE MOST IMPORTANT"
 DESPITE JAPAN'S GROWING CONTACTS WITH BOTH THE USSR AND PRC.
 "JAPAN IS TRYING HARD TO HELP THE U.S. ECONOMY REGAIN ITS
 STRENGTH AND THE DOLLAR RECOVER ITS ROLE AS A KEY CURRENCY,"
 HE SAID.

IT IS NOTED THAT UN AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO
 IGNORE THE ISSUE OF A PRG OBSERVER MISSION AND THAT THE U.S.
 FEARS THAT EQUAL STATUS IN THE UN FOR THE PRG AND GVN WOULD SET
 A PRECEDENT FOR RECOGNITION OF THE PRG. INFORMED SOURCES SAID
 THAT SCALI MADE IT CLEAR TO WALDHEIM THAT THE WORST THING THAT
 COULD HAPPEN WOULD BE ANY UN ACTION THAT WOULD FORCE THE U.S.
 TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE PRG'S STATUS. MADAME BINH'S STATEMENT
 YESTERDAY SHOWS THAT THE ABSENCE OF A DECISION COULD PROVE DAMAG-
 ING TO WALDHEIM'S DESIRE TO PLAY A ROLE IN POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION
 IN INDOCHINA.

AN EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT U.S. AID TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
 MARKS PRESIDENT BALAGUER AS WASHINGTON'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT TO
 BESTOW STABILITY, IF NOT SOCIAL PROGRESS; AND WHEN HE TREATS
 HIS POLITICAL OPPOSITION AS HE DOES, THEREFORE, IT IS THE U.S.
 WHICH MANY DOMINICANS IDENTIFY WITH HIS RULE. SENATOR FULBRIGHT

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HAS MADE THE MINIMAL AND SENSIBLE PROPOSAL THAT, TO BREAK WHAT TIES REMAIN BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE SECURITY FORCES OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP AND THE AID PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM BE COMPLETELY ENDED, "THIS WOULD NOT PRODUCE POLITICAL MIRACLES IN SANTO DOMINGO, BUT IT WOULD PUT SOME USEFUL DISTANCE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT'S MISUSE OF POWER," ACCORDING TO THE POST.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES
 JOSEPH TREASTER CITES SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF MEN AND WAR MATERIEL INTO THE SOUTHERN AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND SPECIFICALLY INTO THE CRITICAL TAY NINH PROVINCE AREA. A HIGH-RANKING SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ONCE THE U.S. COMPLETES ITS WITHDRAWAL, THE NVA MAY RISK AN OFFENSIVE. WHILE HARD INTELLIGENCE ON THE COMMUNISTS' INTENTIONS IS LACKING, SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE RATE OF THE ENEMY BUILDUP WOULD ENABLE THEM TO LAUNCH A DIVISION-SIZE ATTACK IN EARLY APRIL. (A-1)
 WILLIAM BEECHER HAS A RELATED ARTICLE ON THE REPORTED NVA DEPLOYMENT OF OVER 300 TANKS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AND ITS BORDER AREAS. HE ALSO REPORTS THAT INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS IN WASHINGTON SAY THAT INTERCEPTED DIRECTIVES TO COMMUNIST TROOPS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH, AS WELL AS PRIVATE COMMENTS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS IN VARIOUS POSTS, SUGGEST THAT AN OFFENSIVE IS PLANNED IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN THE SUMMER OR FALL, AFTER U.S. TROOPS HAVE LEFT. (A-5)
 FOX BUTTERFIELD COVERS THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY THAT IT WILL HOLD NEW NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS FOR VILLAGE COUNCILS, REVERSING A BAN PUT INTO EFFECT LAST MAY DURING THE COMMUNISTS' SPRING OFFENSIVE. HE OBSERVES THAT THE DECISION TO RESUME THE ELECTIONS, DESPITE THE UNSETTLING MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION, APPEARED TO REFLECT A NEW MOOD OF CONFIDENCE IN THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT THAT THE CEASE-FIRE MIGHT BE WORKING TO SOUTH VIETNAM'S ADVANTAGE. HE ALSO REPORTS THAT LAST WEEK PRESIDENT THIEU QUIETLY ORDERED HIS COMMANDERS TO OBEY THE CEASE-FIRE AS CAREFULLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO BEGIN CO-OPERATING WITH THE FPJMC AND THE ICCS. (A-7)
 THE LEAD EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S SCARCELY VEILED THREAT TO RESUME OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM, SHOULD IT CONTINUE TO VIOLATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. IT NOTES THAT ONCE THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED, BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT MUST BE AWARE THAT RESUMPTION OF COMBAT BY U.S. FORCES COULD THREATEN A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS OF THE FIRST ORDER. IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSED CHURCH/CASE LEGISLATION FORBIDDING THE REINTRODUCTION OF ANY U.S. FORCES

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IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OWN STATEMENTS THAT HE WOULD HAVE NO CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO RECOMMIT U.S. MILITARY FORCES, ESPECIALLY ONCE ALL THE POWS HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY AT HOME. (A-30)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

IN AN UNUSUAL MOVE, SOUTH KOREA SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. RESPONDING TO A CHINESE CRITICISM OF OIL DEVELOPMENT IN THE YELLOW SEA, THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID IT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE CHINESE. THE MOVE MAY BE RELATED TO RECENT ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE A NEW ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION,

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